(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have objected to these new directives of the Centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan of the Centre to address their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not framed any new guidelines for implementation of NREGS.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Centre for Excellence for Flourosis Mitigation, Gandhi Nagar

3981. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1811 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government has received the required detailed proposal regarding upgradation of existing Jal Seva Training Institute from the State Government of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Directive to review the implementation of land reform programmes

3982. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the States to thoroughly review the implementation of land reform programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefits of the land reforms are not reaching at the grassroot level; and

(d) if so, the latest strategies Government propose to make to ensure that the benefits of land reforms programmes reaches at the grassroot level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Centre Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of land reforms programmes is reviewed from time to time at vatious fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. The State Governments have been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Govt. wasteland and Bhoodan land to

the eligible rural poor by preparation of action plans, and to complete the task by undertaking special drives. They have also been requested for taking effective steps for detecting insecure or informal tenants, so as to bring them on record; implementation of the legislative provisions for preventing alienation of tribal lands and restoration of such alienated land; providing equal rights of ownership of assets like houses and land to women, and for taking up consolidation of holdings.

2. As per the information received from the States, 125.93 lakh tenants have been conferred ownership rights or their rights are protected, covering an area of 167.16 lakh acres. On implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.59 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 59.98 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.68 lakh acres has been distributed to 55.34 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Govt. wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor. Further, an area of 1739.01 lakh acres has been consolidated. An area of 4.18 lakh acres of alienated tribal land has been restored to the tribals.

Approval of schemes from Maharashtra under SGSY

†3983. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has submitted some schemes to the Union Government under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the details of the schemes; and

(c) the details of the schemes out of those which the Government is considering to give its approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Since inception of the scheme, 55 proposals for Special Projects under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) have been received by the Ministry of Rural Development from the Government of Maharashtra. Out of 55 proposals, 14 projects have been sanctioned/approved so far, 29 project proposals have been returned to the concerned State Governments or other sponsoring agencies for various reasons and 12 project proposals are with the Government at various stages of processing including proposals cleared by Project Screening Committee for consideration of the Project Approval Committee etc.

A large number of special project proposals under SGSY are received from State Governments and other Agencies for sanction. Since they are large livelihoods projects whose cost can go up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore, such proposals are first scrutinized for their compliance with the guidelines of Special Projects under SGSY. Projects that do not fulfil these requirements are returned to the concerned State Governments. The State Governments keep on revising, restructuring and resubmitting such proposals. The project

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.